

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure(s) 2 – 4(b) are to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 2, 3 and 4(a) have been amended.

The specific changes which have been made to Figures 2, 3 and 4(a) are as follows. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended to change the orientation of the view label (e.g. “FIG. 2”). Figure 3 has also been amended to include reference number 39c2. Figure 4(a) has been amended to remove the Japanese text adjacent reference number 39, changing 14a to 41a, and extending the lead lines for 40 and 43.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, claims 1-8 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figures 2, 3, and 4(a). Figures 2, 3 and 4(a) have been amended accordingly. In addition, the Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to include reference number 39c2. Reference number 39c2 has been added to Figure 3. Replacement sheets are appended to this Response. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification. Paragraphs 29, 33, 34, 37, 44, 48 and 60 have been amended accordingly. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 8 has been amended to change the dependency from claim 5 to claim 7. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2328244 ("Bell"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Bell does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claim. For example, Bell does not disclose, teach or suggest "a pretensioner configured to cooperate with an anchor; wherein said pretensioner includes a connector portion, and wherein the anchor is configured to be inserted into and engaged with said connector portion," as recited in amended claim 1. Bell merely

discloses a safety belt buckle. The buckle includes a channel 4 for receiving a tongue. *See* Bell at p. 6, lines 4-6. An “anchor” is not a buckle or a tongue. Bell does not disclose an “anchor,” nor an anchor “inserted into and engaged with a connector portion.” Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Independent claim 5 contains elements similar to claim 1 and therefore, is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above. For example, Bell does not disclose, teach or suggest “an anchor connected to a lap belt portion of the seat belt for securing the lap belt portion of the seat belt to the vehicle; [and] a pretensioner engaged with the anchor,” as recited in claim 5. Bell merely discloses a buckle, not an “anchor.” Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 depend from claim 5 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5582
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Howard N. Shipley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,370

SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OF IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.